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February 5, 1958

SUBJECT: The "Baker Report" ("Scientific Judgments on Foreign Communications Intelligence")

1. A meeting is scheduled to be held in the President's office at 10:30 a.m., on Monday, February 10 (list of participants attached):

(a) To hear an oral presentation by Dr. Baker on the highlights of the subject report.

(b) To present to the President comments and recommendations on the subject report as developed by the Special NSC Committee for COMINT (consisting of the Secretaries of State and Defense, advised by the DCI).

2. Based on a recommendation of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities (the "Killian Board"), the President approved establishment of a special panel of the Science Advisory Committee to study the Soviet high grade cipher problem and to develop specific recommendations thereon for consideration by NSC's Special COMINT Committee. The panel, consisting of selected experts in such fields as cryptanalysis and mathematics (list of panel members attached), was headed by Dr. William O. Baker of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

3. Over a period of many months the Baker Panel made a very extensive examination of (a) the high-level code problem, (b) the collection of intelligence signals (COMINT and ELINT)*, (c) the processing and analysis of communications intercept, (d) foreign intelligence sources supplementary to Soviet high level ciphers, and (e) the national resources for communications intelligence, with particular emphasis on the National Security Agency (NSA).

4. As the Baker Panel progressed, there was extensive consultation on the part of the panel members with representatives of the several intelligence agencies concerned. Upon completion of the study a very limited number of copies of the report were distributed under special security safeguards to facilitate preparation by the NSC Special COMINT Committee of recommendations thereon to the President. The Special COMINT Committee (with Dr. Baker and a minimum of other responsible personnel) is to meet on this subject on 2-6-58.

After Dr. Baker orally presents the highlights of his report to the President at the 2-10-58 meeting, the Special COMINT Committee will present its views and recommendations thereon. At that time Dr. Killian will also present his comments on the subject.

* In general, COMINT is concerned with the collection and analysis of signals which contain voice or other textual messages, whereas ELINT is concerned with signals which may contain intelligence but which presumably do not carry voice or textual messages.



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Participants in President's Office - 10:30 a.m., February 10



The President
The Secretary of State
~~The Secretary of Defense~~
The Deputy Secretary of Defense *and Gen. Cooke*
The Director of Central Intelligence *and Sheldon*
The Special Assistant to the President for Science
and Technology
The Special Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs
The Director, National Security Agency (Lt. General Sanford)
The Staff Secretary, White House
The Executive Secretary, National Security Council
The Chairman, Special Intelligence Panel, Science Advisory
Committee (Dr. William O. Baker)

O. Selfridge)
A. M. Gleason) Members of the Special Intelligence
H. W. Bode) Panel

Mr Coyne

Members of the Special Intelligence (Baker) Panel

L. W. Alvarez	University of California
H. W. Bode	Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.
R. L. Garwin	International Business Machines Corp.
D. A. Huffman	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
J. W. Milnor	Princeton University
J. R. Pierce	Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.
N. Rochester	International Business Machines Corp.
O. Selfridge	Lincoln Laboratories, MIT
J. W. Tukey, Consultant	Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc. and Princeton University
W. O. Baker, Chairman	Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.
A. M. Gleason (part-time)	Harvard University

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